

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2005

Office of Information and Privacy
Department of Justice
Suite 570, Flag Building
Washington, DC 20530-0001

FOIA REQUEST

Fee waiver requested

Expedited review requested

Dear FOI Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of records which show the number of subpoenas requested, as well as the number of subpoenas authorized, in order to obtain information from, or about, members of the news media in the years 2001-2004. I would be satisfied by a summary of this information.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of this information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. The protection of the freedom of the press is a central pillar of our democracy, and I believe the data I am seeking is extremely important to our society.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

Please provide expedited review of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a member of the United States House of Representatives, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information or releasing information for dissemination by the news media. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited review are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Bettesworth of my staff at 202.225.3106.

Sincerely,



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress